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Letter, 1862 May 5, Oscar D. Ladley to Mother and Sisters [Catherine, Mary, and Alice Ladley]

Oscar D. Ladley

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Staunton.
Camp Reily, 20 miles west of
May 5th, 1862.

Dear Mother and Sisters

We arrived at this place yesterday, it is six miles east of the Shenandoah Mountains at the fork of the road, the main one leading to Staunton and the left one to Harrisonburg, thirty two miles from here. The rebels are said to be within seven miles of us. We occupy this place with two Regts. and a Battery of Artillery 75th ord, 3^d Va. V. A. and Heyman's Battery of four guns. Night before last we stayed on top of the Shenandoah Mts. They had fortified it the same as other places that they have left. We get no news out here, the last letter that I received from you up to this time was dated April 13th, that stated that you had

received the money that I sent
by Express, since then I sent \$5.00
by mail that I have not heard
from. Your letter was 14 days coming
through. I don't know whether you
write very often or not, but I do know
that I don't receive many. The mail
is carried by Cavalry men detailed
for that purpose and they are
not very responsible set of men.
We heard the other day that N. Orleans
was taken but nothing further, what
news we do get is ten or twelve
days old. We have been a week
without meat or sugar, all we
live on is hard bread and Coffee.
I believe in my last ~~that~~ letter
I wrote that there was no rebels
between us and Staunton, but it
was a mistake, we see them
nearly every day. there was
a squad of their Cavalry in

sight yesterday but disappeared immediately on seeing us. I don't know what is to be done at present, but there will be something as soon as we get reinforcements.

The health of the Regt. is good, much better than it has been, the wounded men are doing fine and will get well. There is nothing of interest to write about at present.

Col. McLean is in Command of the post. Has Mary got a school yet? ~~if~~ if so how is she getting along. What is ally doing? Tell her to write next time also.

Tell Ann when the war is over there will be still more Beauys. I understood that Fessenden came home, did the rest of the Band come ~~also~~ with him or not?

Tell Mip Joe and Jennie White, that

Channing
is Cook this week for our mess,
and that he does very well, and
would do better if we had anything to
cook. The 75th Regt. is the advance
Regt. we have a good name
since our fight, especially ~~not~~
for L & D.

Well I must close,
we are all well.

Give my best respects to all
that enquire after my well-
fare.

I am Affectionately
O D Sadler

P.S. The 32^d Ovt have just come in
from McDowell, and a Squadron
of Cavalry.

I understood that John Lawrence
was at home, is he?

Have they heard from Wydes Company
since the fight at Pittsburg Landing?

O D Sadler